

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 052479

13

ORIGIN NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 COME-00 /142 R

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R 152116Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSAFE CP RAMSTEIN AB GERMANY

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

SECDEF

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052479

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, EBXP, BE, NE, NO, DA, IR

SUBJECT: F-104 REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT

REF: TEHRAN 1662

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PAGE 02 STATE 052479

1. APPRECIATE RECEIPT REFTEL. CERTAINLY IT REMAINS IMPORTANT AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT F-104G REPLACEMENT MATTER REMAIN WITHIN NATO CONTEXT FOR NATO COUNTRIES TO TAKE LEAD IN SELECTION OF APPROPRIATE REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT. OBVIOUSLY, DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF NATO SELECTION, GOI INTEREST IN P-530 COBRA COULD HAVE BENEFICIAL IMPACT ON BOTH EUROPEAN AND NORTHROP PROGRAMS.

2. AT PRESENT IT APPEARS THAT SELECTION DECISION MIGHT BE MADE BY NEW BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WHEN FORMED IN APRIL-SEPTEMBER TIMEFRAME. AMBASSADOR STRAUZ-HUPE HAS REPORTED THAT MOD VANDEN BOEYNANTS INFORMED HIM THAT QTE ONLY NORTHROP P-530 COBRA AND THE DASSAULT SUPER MIRAGE ARE IN CONTENTION INsofar AS BELGIUM IS CONCERNED. UNQTE.

3. REFERENCE PARA 3 ON TALKING POINTS, STATE AND DEFENSE HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING F-104G REPLACEMENT MATTER CLOSELY AND WE BELIEVE IT PRUDENT AT THIS JUNCTURE THAT DIALOGUE WITH GOI BE KEPT STRICTLY BETWEEN NORTHROP AND THEIR IRANIAN

CONTACTS. UNTIL EUROPEANS FORMALLY QTE SELECT UNQTE THE COBRA, WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE OBLIGED TO BE EVEN HANDED AMONG THE US INDUSTRIAL FIRMS COMPETING WHO ALL CLAIM THEIR CHANCES OF QTE WINNING UNQTE BY NO MEANS FORECLOSED. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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